## Message Text

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**ACTION PM-04** 

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5839

INFO DOD/OSD/ISA WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

CHUSMTM DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

COMIDEASTFOR

CONFIDENTIAL JIDDA 6177

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MASS, SA, US

SUBJ: OJT FOR SAUDI NAVY

- 1. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, MIDEASTFOR CURRENTLY PROVIDES OJT FOR SAUDI NAVY ABOARD ITS SHIPS. IN A SEPTEMBER 1 MEETING RADM CROWE, COMIDEASTFOR, AND BG AHMANN, CHUSMTM, INFORMALLY DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF STATIONING A USN PATROL GUNBOAT AT DAMMAM FOR SAUDI NAVY OJT.
- 2. CHUSMTM MAKES THE FOLLOWING CASE:
- (A) PRESENT OJT IS SOMEWHAT UNREALISTIC BECAUSE OJT IS CONDUCTED ON FRIGATES, WHICH ARE NOT BEING PURCHASED BY SAG.
- (B) OJT IN GULF WOULD COMPLEMENT INITIAL OJT BEING CONDUCTED ON PATROL GUNBOATS WHICH ARE BEING ACQUIRED BY SAG, AT LITTLE CREEK, VA. (UNDER FMS CASE). WITHOUT SOME CONTINUITY, RSNF PERSONNEL MAY FORGET MOST OF WHAT THEY LEARNED.
- (C) WITH A COST-SHARING AGREEMENT, E.G., 50 PERCENT OF COSTS REIMBURSED BY SAG, PATROL GUNBOATS COULD BE AVAILABLE TO USN FOR OJT OF OTHER GULF STATES--OMAN, UAE, KUWAIT, BAHRAIN. CONFIDENTIAL

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(D) COULD FAVORABLY AFFECT SAG AND BAHRAIN SUPPORT OF RETENTION OF COMIDEASTFOR.

- 3. THERE IS ONE MUTUALLY RECOGNIZED DRAWBACK TO THE IDEA--SAG MIGHT FIND PROPOSAL POLITICALLY OFFENSIVE AT A TIME WHEN FUTURE OF MIDEASTFOR IS STILL OPEN QUESTION.
- 4. IN PRACTICAL TERMS, WE BELIEVE USMTM'S PROPOSAL HAS MERIT AND OBVIOUS VALUE TO SAG. BUT BEFORE MATTER IS RAISED WITH SAG WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS. PORTER

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